

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROPOSED DHEW VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: A. STATE 241980; B. TOKYO 16132; C. TOKYO 15009

1. SCICOUNS AND USDA REPS HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MAMORU TSUNASHIMA, HEAD, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIV, MIN OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW), TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MEETING ON FOOD AND DRUG CONTROL. FOLLOWING PROPOSAL, BASED ON MHW DRAFT IDENTIFIED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH TSUNASHIMA, REPRESENTS COORDINATED EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION REQUESTED BY REF A.

2. GENERAL: MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON FEB 13-15, WITH LAST DAY DEVOTED TO LABORATORY AND PLANT TOURS. MHW WOULD PROBABLY BE AMENABLE TO EXTENSION TO FOUR FULL DAYS BUT BELIEVES PROPOSED AGENDA CAN BE COVERED IN THREE DAYS, INCLUDING TOURS. MHW PROPOSES THAT, FOLLOWING GENERAL TOPICS COVERED ON FIRST DAY, SEPARATE PARALLEL SESSIONS BE HELD ON SECOND DAY, WITH ONE GROUP CONCENTRATING ON FOODS AND OTHER ON DRUGS. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED THAT FEASIBILITY THIS SUGGESTION DEPENDED ON COMPOSITION OF US TEAM, WHICH NOT YET DEFINED IN DETAIL, AND ESPECIALLY ON WHETHER US GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF OFFICIALS WITH ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BOTH FOOD AND DRUGS, OR THOSE WITH MORE SPECIALIZED RESPONSIBILITIES. TSUNASHIMA OBSERVED THAT JAPANESE EXPECTATION IS TO GO INTO CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL DETAIL ON SUGGESTED TOPICS.

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3. PROPOSED TOPICS:

FEB 13, 1974

A.M. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION

P.M. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN FIELD OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

A. OVERALL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR FOODS

B. OVERALL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR DRUGS

FEB 14, 1974

A. FOOD

1. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD CONTROL

2. PROVISIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FOOD CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING LEAD, PCB, MERCURY, AND PESTICIDE RESIDUES

3. FOOD ADDITIVES

B. DRUGS

1. RE-EVALUATION OF DRUGS

2. DRUG EFFECTS INFORMATION SYSTEM

3. BIOLOGICS (VACCINES, BLOOD PREPARATIONS, ETC.)

4. GMP (GOOD MANUFACTURING PROCESS)

5. PROBLEMS CAUSED BY OIL SHORTAGE

C. CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

PLANS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

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FEB 15, 1974

STUDY VISITS:

A. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYGIENIC SCIENCES

B. DRUG MANUFACTURING FACILITY (TAKEDA CORP., KAWASAKI AREA)

4. PROPOSAL THAT FORTHCOMING SESSION REPRESENT INITIATION OF CONTINUING EXCHANGE IN FOOD AND DRUG CONTROL AREA WAS ADVANCED BY TSUNASHIMA. MOREOVER, TSUNASHIMA RECALLED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE DURING FORMER SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT OF 1971 ON BROADER COOPERATION BETWEEN NEW AND MHW, INCLUDING SUCH TOPICS AS SOCIAL SECURITY, CHILDREN'S WELFARE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION. TSUNASHIMA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FDA GROUP COULD AT LEAST BE IN POSITION OF DISCUSSING THESE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER BROADER COOPERATION.

5. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES FDA'S READINESS TO PROCEED WITH THIS EXCHANGE AND VIEWS IT AS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE DIALOGUE IN IMPORTANT AREA. EARLIEST POSSIBLE ADVICE ON COMPOSITION OF US DELEGATION AND REACTION TO PROPOSED AGENDA WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PARTICIPATION OF ASST SECRETARY EDWARDS AS US DEL HEAD WOULD BE ESPECIALLY WELCOME AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VIEWED BY JAPANESE AS INDICATION OF HIGH IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO EXCHANGE BY US.

6. IN FORMULATION OF AGENDA EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED COURSE OUTLINED PARA 5 REF C. WE HAVE INCLUDED FOOD ADDITIVES AND FOOD CONTAMINANTS AS FORMAL ITEMS ON AGENDA AND HOPE DURING FEB MEETINGS THAT DISCUSSIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF ONGOING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT REDUCTION OF NTB EFFECT OF CURRENT PRACTICES IN JAPAN IN THESE TWO AREAS.
SHOESMITH

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